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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/68/442/Add.1)*]

68/226. Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 67/224 of 21 December 2012 and all other resolutions related to the eradication of poverty,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, as well as the international commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day[2] and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome[3] and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[4]

Recalling the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[5] adopted in May 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, with a main aim of enabling half the number of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals, and its resolution 63/303 of 9 July 2009, entitled "Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development",

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Since 2008, United Nations reports on the Millennium Development Goals have been using, a poverty line of 1.25 United States dollars a day.

[3] Resolution 60/1.

[4] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[5] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

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Taking note with appreciation of the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council on creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development[6] and also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/37 of 28 July 2011 entitled "Recovering from the world financial and economic crisis: a Global Jobs Pact",

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[7] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8]

Recalling also its resolution 68/1 of 20 September 2013 on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and its resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 on the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

Recalling further the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, and its outcome document,[9] and the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, and its outcome document,[10]

Acknowledging the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and also acknowledging the central imperative of poverty eradication in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on development, including on the capacity of developing countries to mobilize resources for development, recognizing that there is a need to promote recovery, and acknowledging that an effective response to the impacts of the crisis requires the timely implementation of all development commitments, including existing aid commitments,

Concerned that, midway into the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), while there has been progress in reducing poverty, especially in some middle-income countries, such progress has been uneven and the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa,

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[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] Resolution 65/1.

[10] Resolution 68/6.

Recognizing that rates of economic growth vary among countries and that these differences must be addressed by, among other actions, promoting pro-poor growth and social protection,

Recognizing also that corruption at all levels, including, inter alia, the illicit transfer of funds and assets, is an obstacle to development, and stressing the need for the return of these funds and assets to their countries of origin,

Concerned at the global nature of poverty and inequality, and underlining the fact that the eradication of poverty and hunger is an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of all humankind,

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, particularly in Africa, in the least developed countries and in some middle-income countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, including full, productive employment generation and decent work for all,

Reaffirming also that women make significant contributions to the economy, that women are key contributors to the economy and to combating poverty and inequality through both remunerated and unremunerated work at home, in the community and in the workplace and that the empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing the importance of supporting countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including women, children and youth, indigenous peoples, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Recognizing also that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have contributed to the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing further that mobilizing financial resources for development at the national and international levels and the effective use of those resources are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Expressing deep concern that aggregate official development assistance fell in 2012 for the second consecutive year, and calling for the reverse of this decline,

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation, and recognizing the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation to the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and pursue sustainable development,

Acknowledging also that good governance at the national and international levels and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, supported by full employment and decent work for all, rising productivity and a favourable environment, including public and private investment and entrepreneurship, are necessary to eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to realize a rise in living standards, and that corporate social responsibility initiatives play an important role in maximizing the impact of public and private investment,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields,

Recalling the inter-agency system-wide plan of action for poverty eradication involving more than 21 agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017), under the agenda item "Eradication of poverty and other development issues";[11]

2. *Reaffirms* that the objective of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017) is to support, in an efficient and coordinated manner, the follow-up to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, relating to the eradication of poverty and to coordinate international support to that end;

3. *Also reaffirms* that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and in this regard commits itself to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency;

4. *Further reaffirms* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and strategies for the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication cannot be overemphasized, and recognizes that increased effective national efforts should be complemented by concrete, effective and supportive international programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership strategies and sovereignty;

5. *Calls upon* the international community, including Member States, to urgently take measures to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger because of their negative impacts on sustainable development;

6. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, in accordance with the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

7. *Reiterates* the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation for development and its role at the regional level, which is critical for the eradication of poverty;

8. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of regional, subregional and interregional cooperation can have a catalytic impact on poverty eradication efforts and offers many benefits, including the exchange of best policies, experiences and technical expertise, the mobilization of resources and the expansion of economic opportunities and conditions favourable to job creation;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda,

[11] A/68/183.

addressing the root causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at all levels, and calls upon donor countries in a position to do so to support effective national efforts of developing countries in this regard through adequate, predictable financial resources on bilateral and multilateral bases;

10. *Stresses* the importance of public-private partnerships in a wide range of areas, with the aim of eradicating poverty and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all and social integration, as appropriate;

11. *Acknowledges* the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication, emphasizes that, in accelerating poverty eradication, the organizations of the United Nations development system must be driven by national priorities and be operated in an integrated, coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates, making full use of the interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars of the United Nations development system, and encourages the use of diverse strategies;

12. *Recognizes* the role of the specialized agencies and United Nations funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, in contributing to international advocacy for eradicating poverty, including through education and training;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to fulfil all official development assistance commitments, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015 and to reach a level of at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010, as well as a target of 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

14. *Welcomes* the increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and increase its development impact, recognizes the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, notes other initiatives, such as the high-level forums on aid effectiveness, which produced, inter alia, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action[12] and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which make important contributions to the efforts of the countries that have made commitments to them, including through the adoption of the fundamental principles of national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results, and bears in mind that there is no one-size-fits-all formula that will guarantee effective assistance and that the specific situation of each country needs to be fully considered;

15. *Recognizes* the urgent need to address poverty, hunger and food security, and encourages the international community to enhance international cooperation in support of agricultural and rural development and food production and productivity, including of smallholder producers, in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries;

16. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to strengthen United Nations funding for the eradication of poverty through voluntary contributions to existing poverty-related system-wide funds;

[12] A/63/539, annex.

17. *Recognizes* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stresses that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment and by ensuring greater coherence among macroeconomic, trade and social policies at all levels;

18. *Reaffirms* the importance of the eradication of poverty as an overarching objective of ongoing follow-up processes to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

19. *Also reaffirms* that, as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, poverty eradication shall be central to the post-2015 development agenda;

20. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their ambitious efforts to strive for more inclusive, equitable, balanced, stable and development-oriented sustainable socioeconomic approaches to overcoming poverty, and, in view of the negative impact of inequalities on poverty, emphasizes the importance of improving access to quality education, health care and social protection;

21. *Recognizes* that poverty is multidimensional, and invites national Governments, supported by the international community, to consider developing complementary measures that better reflect this multidimensionality;

22. *Acknowledges* that the eradication of poverty through the development of national capacities in developing countries should continue to be a core area of focus for the United Nations development system and that its development programmes and projects should attempt to address this greatest global challenge as their underlying objective;

23. *Invites* all stakeholders, including Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and civil society organizations, to share good practices relating to programmes and policies that address inequalities for the benefit of those living in extreme poverty and promote the active participation of those living in extreme poverty in the design and implementation of such programmes and policies, with the aim of accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and informing the discussions on the way forward after 2015, and requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals a compilation of such good practices;

24. *Reiterates its call upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to consider activities to implement the Second Decade, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;

25. *Reaffirms* the need to give the highest priority to its consideration of the question of poverty eradication, reiterates in this regard its decision, in resolution 63/230 of 19 December 2008, as a contribution to the Second Decade, to convene at its sixty-eighth session a meeting of the General Assembly, at the highest appropriate political level, centred on the review process devoted to the theme relating to the issue of poverty eradication, and stresses that the meeting and the preparatory activities should be carried out within the budget level proposed by the Secretary-General for the biennium 2012–2013 and should be organized in the most effective and efficient manner;

26. *Notes with concern* the continuing high levels of unemployment and underemployment, particularly among young people, as a consequence of the global financial and economic crisis, recognizes that decent work for all remains one of the

best routes out of poverty, and in this regard invites donor countries, multilateral organizations and other development partners to continue to assist Member States, in particular developing countries, in adopting policies consistent with the Global Jobs Pact adopted by the International Labour Conference at its ninety-eighth session, as a general framework within which each country can formulate policy packages specific to its situation and national priorities in order to promote a job-intensive recovery and sustainable development;

27. *Urges* Member States to address the global challenge of youth unemployment by developing and implementing strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work, and in this context stresses the need for the development of a global strategy on youth employment, building upon, inter alia, the Global Jobs Pact and the call for action of the International Labour Organization;

28. *Encourages* the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and promote empowerment of the poor and people in vulnerable situations, with a view to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, improving access to finance, microfinance and credit, removing barriers to opportunity, enhancing productive capacity, developing sustainable agriculture and promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, complemented by national efforts on effective social policies, including social protection floors, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 concerning national floors of social protection;

29. *Encourages* Member States to improve existing social protection systems and to continue developing and implementing social protection floors based on national priorities, paying particular attention to women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

30. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the outcome documents relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

31. *Also urges* the international community, including the United Nations system, to implement the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[13] in support of the objectives of the Second Decade;

32. *Stresses* that the impacts of natural disasters and conflicts are severely hampering efforts to achieve poverty eradication, in particular in developing countries, and calls upon the international community to give priority to addressing them;

33. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with their mandates, to assign the highest priority to poverty eradication, and stresses that efforts in this area should be scaled up to address the root causes of extreme poverty and hunger;

34. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to support Member States, at their request, in

[13] Resolution 63/303, annex.

strengthening their macroeconomic policy capacity and national development strategies so as to contribute to achieving the objectives of the Second Decade;

35. *Encourages* greater inter-agency convergence and collaboration within the United Nations system in sharing knowledge, promoting policy dialogue, facilitating synergies, mobilizing funds, providing technical assistance in the key policy areas underlying the decent work agenda and strengthening system-wide policy coherence on employment issues, including by avoiding duplication of efforts;

36. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008–2017)", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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